月のしっぽ
其之十六
Tsuki no Shippo
Chapter 16

*Usa-sama, How are you? I am..
Look look!
It's the first letter I've ever written!
It's wonderful Mamezou.
Eheh ♡
ARE YOU WELL?
I WONDER IF YOU BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST ME FOR LEAVING YOU IN HAMAMATSU.
I DID IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU COULD SERVE THE WORLD BETTER AS A MEDICINE MAKER THAN BY BECOMING A SHINOBI.

IT MAY BE DIFFICULT AND LONELY FOR YOU TO BE SEPARATED FROM IGA RIGHT NOW, BUT IF IEYASU SAMA PERMITS IT
OR PERHAPS, A YEAR, I WILL BE SURE TO COME FOR YOU SO UNTIL THEN DEVOTE YOURSELF TO NOT BEING A BOTHER TO EVERYONE
IN SIX MONTHS.
WE IN IGA ARE ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU...
It's HUGE!
So this is the ocean!!

FLOP
What's this?
Huh?
The water here moves
WHOOSH
WAH
RUN RUN
I wonder if there are any mermaids around.
CHEW
munch munch
I'll bring some back as a souvenir.
Delicious! ♡
I wonder if these can be eaten too?
M—Mountain monkey
Blech. Salty!!
slurp slurp
But, it's a bit salty
QHH!
This isn't the time for such things!!
I've gotta look for a mermaid!!
spit spit
SPEW

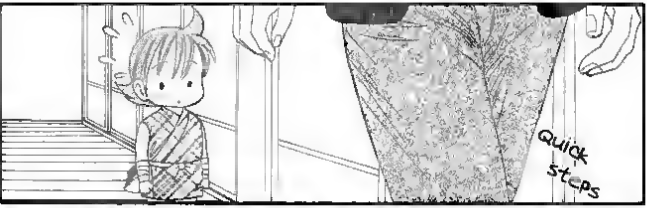
Mermaids!?
Yeah.
Half-human and half-fish!!
Hey mister, you from around here?
Yeah.
Can you tell me where the mermaids are?
Oooooooh. There are TONS of weird things around here, but NO mermaids...
Climbing on those rocks is dangerous...
Eeeh!?
There's no way such a thing exists!!
Buhahaha
Mermaids must be valuable and very delicious and that's why you won't tell me
WHOOSH
Oh, I see...
If you ever find one, be sure to show it to me.
See ya
Wait mister...

I should try looking somewhere el..
I haven't found a single one
Aaaaw
W-
Why's there so much water?
Eh.
Somebody help meee..
Clung
Somebody..
Whenever I'm in danger Hanzou-sama or Goemon saves me...
But, this isn't Iga..
what's going on here!?
Did the rock move!?
Splash
Spl-sh
UWA
SUBMERGE

Grab on to this!!
Yuki cha..
Hurry!!
SPLASH
O_Okay!!
How can you be a shinobi and not know how to swim!?
Th_Thank you Yuki chan_
pant pant
Did you come to look for the mermaids too?

Mermaids don't exist
Eh?
It's just a legend
You really are an Igan mountain monkey, to have believed that made up story and come all the way to the ocean to look for them
Don't exist ?
If they did, we wouldn't have any hard times
What should I do ?
Then
I don't know how to make
a medicine for eternal youth
But I've got to make it
Or I can't go home to Iga
I can't see Hanzou-sama...

Eeeeh?
You play for today.
I'm heading to work now.
Good job.
Let's write another letter together.
Hanzou-sama
I'm done cleaning.


Quick steps

Quick steps

Mamezou, if you're free I want you to take care of this little guy for a while
Eh?
A
B
C

*ABC

Nooo!
He'll bite me.
This is part of your training too.
nibble
Even if he does it won't hurt.
He's a cute puppy.
Waaaan!
I HATE DOGS!!
hide
A Shinobi cannot hate dogs
It's one of Kurokage's pups.
I want you to raise this up into a fine shinobi dog.
arn
!!
Care for him as if he were Usagi...
squirt
Huu.
Don't leave the dog hereeeee!!
so it's worthwhile for you to take care of it.
This dog is exactly like Usagi.
sniff sniff
suck
stare
You idiot!!
WAAAAAH

Here are the details of your jobs
So it's Kyuushuu this time huh? That's faaaar
Hanzou-sama, would you please name my newborn son?
Sure, I'll think of a good name
It seems we have another healthy child
Princess..
Hanzou...
May I please hold him too?
He's so cuuute.
I hope our child will be as cute as this one is...
It's a bit early to be talking like that...
Ah.
Actually
Hanzou
Sara's pregnant with my child right now...
What!?

Congratulations to you.
Next spring I'll be a dad too
How un settling.
I Is that so
Our fifth is coming next month.
Next spring we'll be having our third
Children are treasures No matter how many you have they are always a joy
Annoyed
You should hurry and have some too, Hanzou-sama.
sigh
Are you starting with that again.
WAAAAAAAH
What the-
I'm sorry.
Why don't you just give up already and secure your line?
I don't need your advice!!

Contrary to what you think, popularity isn't everything.
If you don't cure that furrowed brow, you won't be popular with the ladies.
Goemon-samaaa! ♡
Well, at least Hanzou-sama has Yuuri-sama...
Isn't that girl a candidate to be Hanzou's bride...
I had a small errand
Flirt ♡
Geez, I've been waiting for so long
What?
Why the unpleasant atmo-sphere!?
Why's he so unpopular with women...

I just can't take care of this dog
Huh!?
WAAAN
leap
How cute ♡
Big Brother Gaemon, save me!
arra
arra
What's this little guy's name?
Ucit
Ucit
Buut...
You can't become a proper shinobi unless you cure your fear of dogs.
Mamezou, if you can take care of this dog, I'll take you to see Usagi.
Really?
He's not cute at all!!
Kyuu.
Toss
It's Usa-sama.
Hanzou-sama told me to care for him in Usa-sama's place...
Grr
The dog's name is Usa-sama!?

quick steps
Goemon, sorry to ask you this right after you have returned, but can you take this letter to Usagi?
OH.
That's the letter I wrote!!
nikki nikki

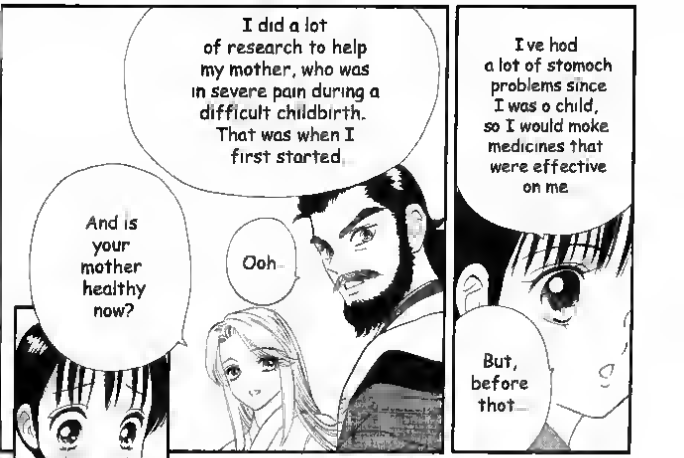
Please take both my and Mamezou's letters.
Sure.
But Goemon-sama, what about my training?
Yuuri, your training can be to assist with work here.
How cruuuel.

Bring me back a reply from Usa-sama, okay?
Under-stood.
Well, I'll be back.
Be careful.
Goemon-samaaaaa...
DASH

I wonder if Usagi will be able to read Mamezou's writing.
"I will come for you"!?
And Hanzou's says
WHAT!?
Crumple
That bastard is playing around with Usagi!!
Thiiiink
.....
It can't be helped...
step
step
But, I'm sure she'll be happy if she reads this...

I went out into the garden this morning for the first time in a long while.
That's because we followed your advice
Your complexion is looking much better

Usagi, how long have you been so knowledgeable about medicines?
Try taking this medicine starting today
Yes, yes, just going into the garden to see the flowers will help your health improve.


I did a lot of research to help my mother, who was in severe pain during a difficult childbirth. That was when I first started.
And is your mother healthy now?
Ooh
I've had a lot of stomach problems since I was a child, so I would make medicines that were effective on me.
But, before that...

I'm sorry for making you speak of such a painful story.
Oh dear...
No, it was a long time ago.
She died along with the baby.
You're a strong kid. Your mom must be looking down with pride.
Eheh I've been praised ♡
I'm sure she would be happy if I could make a medicine for eternal youth too.
But I have no idea how to make it.
Yes.
Well, there is a reason why the lord gave you such a futile order.

He has long been a health-minded man,
but ever since his wife and his heir, Nobuyasu, died around the same time he's had an abnormal attachment to life...
I see...
I can understand how Ieyasu-sama feels, but...
It may be impossible to make now, but if we start by developing medicines that can prolong life...
That's no good...
I'll never be able to go back to Iga that way!!
I want to return to Iga!!
I'm going to make that medicine and go home!!
RUN
RUN
Usagi-

HUG
I want to see Hanzou-sama!!!
Hanzou-sama!!
SLAM
run
run
I wish I hadn't said I would stay here
I'm so stupid! Stupid!!
I miss Hanzou-sama...
zzz
zzz

Usagi
Hn..
Wake up, Usagi
Hn?
BLINK
Uh
If you don't wake up I'm gonna get naughty ♪
MMOOSH
Mmmm ♡
Go-Gaemon!!
Well...
He was making a fuss, so...
What're you doing!?
HRGH HRGH
INTRUDER!!
Geez, keep it down.
Wrong person!
SHH!!

I came to see you Usagi!
HUG
Well, you don't have to come sneaking in, in the dead of night...
Force of habit.
Don't let it bother you.
Actually... Hanzou and Mamezou asked me to...
Hanzou-sama?
Hanzou-sama asked you something!?
Does he want you to bring me back to Igal?
Uh...
Oh yeah... look at this
It's my Hanzou-sama huggy pillow
I fall asleep hugging it every night
Hey hey...
Is Hanzou-sama coming here?
Hanzou-sama is...
Give it up already!!

No matter how much you think about him, Hanzau's not thinking a bit about you...
Eh
If he loved you he wouldn't have parted from you, would he?
I guess you're right...
.....
clutch
I I really want you to become my bride, Usagi.
So...
step
step
step
I'll come again
See ya
See...

A An intruder came and left...
WHAT!?
SLIDE
Gloom
I heard someone...
The castle guards should really stay on tap af things better!!
What was it? What happened!?
"HANZOU'S NOT THINKING A-BIT ABOUT YOU..."
It's just like the time my mother died.
Incredibly sad, but unable to cry...
I've felt this feeling before...

Leap
Yeah
Was Usa-sama surprised by my letter?
Y...Yeah, she was delighted
Welcome back big brother Goemon!
Did you see Usa-sama?
RUN!
RUN
OVERCOMING DOG-FEAR POUCH DESIGNED BY HANZOU
I'm glad
step
step
Is Usagi well?
Yeah
She told me to say, "Hi" to you all
Eh?
Did she reply?
Reply to my letter!!
Oh
No
Eeeeeh!?
That Usagi...!!
She...she's not very good at writing letters, you see...

It's about time you got up
Shouldn't you be researching medicines?
.....
Hanzou-sama, let's write another letter together.
Yes.
We need to tell her to stop being so lazy about writing letters.
I love Hanzou-sama,
Too bad there's no medicine to cure your rudeness
so so SO much, but....
my feelings don't reach him....

End of Chapter 16